

The County of Cumberland is committed to providing quality services to all citizens equitably, in a responsive and caring manner.

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES

October 22, 2007

The Board of Cumberland County Commissioners, Esther B. Clenott, Richard J. Feeney, and Malory Shaughnessy convened a meeting at the Cumberland County Courthouse in the Peter J. Feeney conference room.

Chairman Feeney called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and the following business was conducted.

Minutes of the Cumberland County Regular Meeting of October 9, 2007, were read and approved unanimously.

Comments from the County Manager:

Peter Crichton, County Manager, commented on 2 items: 1) There will be a Legislative Forum on November 7th at the Spring Meadows Golf Course, Gray, Maine from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM and the public is encouraged to attend. This will be a meeting to meet with our Cumberland County legislative delegation and municipal officials, business leaders and citizens about a number of issues. 2) The FY08 Budget process is continuing and it is coming to an important milestone in terms of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) having to make their recommendations. There are a lot of difficult decisions that need to be made by the BAC as a result of a worsening financial condition due to the rising costs of the jail and lack of state funding. It is very important we act with wisdom to try to do what is in the best interest of the County Government and also the citizens and organizations that we impact. We need to keep the tax increase as low as we can.

Comments from the Commissioners:

Commissioner Clenott:

Commissioner Clenott commented how impressed she was when she read the article in the newspaper regarding our pastor at the jail, Rev. Jeff McIlwain. She hopes the citizens will look up the article because we are the first county jail to have a paid person come in and be the religious leader for inmates. He is non-denominational and sees the inmates individually and for services. She is proud that the County does this for the inmates.

Commissioner Shaughnessy:

Commissioner Shaughnessy added a few comments in regard to the jail issue and the budget. We do want to look at the figures that the Governor is presenting but has concerns with the calculations and questions if there really is a savings for the property taxpayers in Cumberland County over the long run. We need to look at what the real issues are that are driving the jail costs to go up such as medical costs, addictions, substance use and mental health issues. She also wanted to thank the Governor for raising the issue that we are all discussing hardily and there are other solutions that meet the needs much better than proposed.

Chairman Feeney:

Chairman Feeney passed along a comment of congratulations to Deputy Andy Feeney on the apprehension of a violent individual that was being pursued by York County and he was apprehended by him. He asked Chief Deputy Kevin Joyce to pass along the congratulations.

Informational Item

Chairman Feeney asked if there were any comments from the public.

Assistant County Manager Bill Whitten presented information on the upcoming County referendum questions as listed below:

QUESTION ONE: *“Shall the issuance of general obligation bonds of the County of Cumberland be authorized in an amount not to exceed \$1,700,000 to fund the costs of an upgraded radio and data transmission system for County law enforcement and emergency response purposes?”*

This will provide a new county wide radio and data system for use by all municipalities for radio and data systems, will replace a thirty year old radio system for the County Sheriff’s Deputies, provide a County wide data transmission service, and provide complete back up radio channels for all municipalities, plus tactical channels for emergency usage. Homeland security grant funding is also being sought, with any grant receipts being deducted from the bond amount.

Questions and comments on this issue should be referred to Bill Holmes, Cumberland County Regional Communications Center Director at 893-2810.

QUESTION TWO: *“Shall the issuance of general obligation bonds of the county of Cumberland be authorized in the amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 for the construction of an expanded medical facility at the Cumberland County jail?”*

This funding will provide an opportunity for the county to overcome a very dangerous and critical situation with the inmate medical facility. The medical staff at the jail is required to serve all 500 or so inmates and treats up to 175 inmates per day for their medical needs. Due to the increased population and their needs, the medical facility is over crowded and presents a safety issue for the medical staff, the corrections officers, the inmates and the general public. Often, the inmates have to be transferred to local hospitals if there is inadequate space for treatment. There, with the costs of one or two guards, the inmates are in the waiting rooms of the hospitals with the general public, when they could be treated at the jail with adequate space.

This need was identified as part of the 2006-2010 strategic plan and has become dire over the past few months, again, due to the nature of the inmates needs.

With the potential State jail take-over, the question arises as to why now, but the answer is because the need is immediate, regardless of the outcome of the Governor's proposal, for public safety reasons.

For questions and comments regarding this issue, please contact Sheriff Mark Dion at 774-1444 ext 2115.

QUESTION THREE: “Do you favor the Maine State Legislature increasing the number of Cumberland County Commissioner districts from three (3) to seven (7)?”

This was a result of a Legislative resolve to increase representation by Commissioners across the County. Currently, each Commissioner represents approximately 87,000 residents. With seven Commissioner Districts, that number would be reduced to approximately 37,000 residents per Commissioner. If approved, the Legislature would vote whether to make it effective in their next session. If the question is turned down, the number of Commissioners would remain at the current three (3).

For more information on this question, or any of the three in general, contact Bill Whitten, assistant County Manager at 871-8380, ext. 3104 or email at Whitten@cumberlandcounty.org. or go to the county website: [www. Cumberlandcounty.org](http://www.Cumberlandcounty.org). A discussion followed.

Action Items:

07 – 117 Approval, Exterior Wall Sealant Application

Chairman Feeney asked Bill Whitten to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Mr. Whitten reported he will present the item for Bruce Tarbox, Facilities Manager who was unable to present the item. He reported the continuation of repair to the exterior wall on the north side of the new section of the courthouse. The wall was discovered to have deficiencies due to complaints of water entering the building. There were four bidders: Briggs & Son \$16,900; Hascall & Hall \$17,841; Audette & S.C.E., Inc.\$19,935.00 and Theodore Logan & Son \$38,678.30. On August 27, 2007, \$41,700 was set aside for this project. \$20,454 for repair of the wall was awarded to Hascall & Hall. Awarding the bid for the exterior sealant application to Briggs & Son in the amount of \$16,900 will leave a balance of \$4,346.00 for general repairs. It was recommended that the bid be awarded to Briggs & Son; they were the lowest bidder and have done work for Cumberland County in the past. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion that the Commissioners approve \$16,900 to be awarded as a contract to Briggs & Sons to do the sealing to complete the project with a savings when done. Commissioner Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

**07 – 118 Approval, Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office – Grant
Application for 2207 Homeland Security Grant for
Phase III of IP Mobile Net**

Chairman Feeney asked Genie Beaulieu, Sheriff’s Fiscal Officer, to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Ms. Beaulieu indicated they are asking for permission to apply for the 2007 Homeland Security grant in order to work with seven communities in Cumberland County on IP Mobile Net. The deadline for filing for this grant is November 16th. The communities are interested in going forward. The grant would be in the range of \$100,000. There is no cost to the County.

Some background information: In 2004, the Sheriff’s Office was awarded funds to implement Phase I of the IPMobileNet Project in conjunction with the Cumberland Police Department, Falmouth Police Department, Gorham Police Department, Westbrook Police Department, Windham Police Department, Yarmouth Police Department, and the Sheriff’s Office. This project centered on the need for better interagency data communications and regionalization of resources for more effective and efficient responses. IPMobileNET technology was chosen because it provides the reliability required for public safety agencies, is viable and inexpensive, provides the flexibility for significant future growth, and provides significant savings for each of the individual agencies. Phase I funding provided for the purchase of 43 modems to be installed in police vehicles as well as a transmitter/receiver located on top of Blackstrap Mountain in Falmouth.

In 2005, the Sheriff’s Office was awarded \$457,590.00 to complete Phase II of the IPMobileNet Project. Phase II funding provided resources for an additional transmitter tower to increase the mobile data transmitter communication coverage area, additional modems and the software to enable these communications. In addition to purchasing an additional 58 modems for police vehicles, 23 modems were purchased for installation in fire department vehicles in the effort to build towards the goal of a regional response.

In 2006, the County Manager denied the Sheriff’s Office request to apply for the Homeland Security Grant to complete Phase III. That grant request was to provide two additional towers (one in Gray and one in Harrison) to provide optimum coverage throughout Cumberland County. Commissioner Clenott inquired as to why he denied the request. The County Manager indicated the reason he denied the request was a very practical decision. We were trying to receive Homeland Security funding for the radio/data communications upgrade, we are going to the citizens for this in November. He felt this increased our odds by not having two competing grant proposals at the same time.

The Sheriff’s Office is therefore requesting permission to apply for the 2007 Homeland Security Grant, which will be used to complete Phase III of the IPMobileNet Project. We are requesting permission to apply as we need to inform our proposed grant partners if the Sheriff’s Office can work with them on this very important interoperability plan. The proposed partners are the:

Cumberland Police Department,	Falmouth Police Department,
Freeport Police Department,	Gorham Police Department,
Westbrook Police Department,	Windham Police Department,
Yarmouth Police Department	

And more departments may be added if we receive permission to submit this grant. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion to authorize the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office to submit for the 2007 Homeland Security Grant on behalf of the Sheriff's Office and the affiliated police departments and the County Manager be authorized to sign the application. Commissioner Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

**07 – 119 Approval, Cumberland County Regional Communications Center –
“Citywatch” Grant Application**

Chairman Feeny asked Assistant County Manager Bill Whitten to present the item. The County Manager concurs with this recommendation.

Mr. Whitten indicated he will present the item because Bill Holmes, Director of CCRCC, is on vacation. The CCRCC, on behalf of Cumberland County, is seeking to secure Homeland Security Grant Funding to support the CONTINUED use of the Citywatch Emergency Alert Warning System.

In 2004, the State approved grant funding for this project. During the past 2 years many communities in Cumberland County have used the system to alert citizens in their communities of pending emergencies. As you will see from the enclosed letters of support, many of the communities in Cumberland County realize the importance and success of this truly regional project.

During the past 2 years, the County of Cumberland has extended the availability for use of the Citywatch System to each of the 28 communities in the county and to several of the college campuses. The system has been very successful and is an important tool in our efforts to improve emergency alert capabilities in our community. The CCRCC has dedicated a staff member for training all communities in the County and to serving as a support person should the communities need assistance when sending emergency alert warnings.

The first grant request (approved by the State in 2004) will end our contract with Citywatch in March of 2008. Approval of this grant request will extend our ability to use the system through 2010.

The County is requesting additional funding from the State this year to support the purchase of 200,000 additional telephone minutes for use of the system. The total amount of our grant request is \$48,885.62. If approved by the State, there will be no fiscal impact to Cumberland County to support this ongoing project. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Clenott made a Motion that the Commissioners approve of the Homeland Security Grant request to the State of Maine to support the continued use of Citywatch Emergency Alert Warning System. The total amount of the grant request is \$48,885.62. There will be no fiscal impact on the County. The County Manager is authorized to sign the application. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

Chairman Feeny asked for a Motion to add an agenda item. This request is being made by the District Attorney's Office for the acceptance of a grant for the Violence Against Women. This was presented to us today and the grant is in the amount of \$41,325.

Commissioner Shaughnessy Moved to put the grant on the agenda. Commissioner Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

**07 – 120 Approval, Agreement to Purchase Services from Department of
Public Safety to Install and Upgrade the CRIMES Case
Management Software**

Chairman Feeney asked the IT Director John Joy to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Mr. Joy reported this is a contract between Cumberland County and the State of Maine Department of Public Safety for the Violence Against Women Act in the amount of \$41,325 which will be used by the District Attorney's Office to advance their computer supported case management system called CRIMES. The contract has the wrong name on the contract and will be corrected. Previously, the Commissioners approved the grant application and this request is simply to review the previous action and provide authorization for the County Manager to execute the contract and move forward. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion to accept this agreement with the proper notation. Commissioner Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

There being no further business Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. Commissioner Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

ATTEST:

Barbara M. Buckley
Deputy Clerk

The next regular Commissioners meeting will be held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, in the Peter J. Feeney Conference Room, 1st floor Annex, at the Cumberland County Courthouse.